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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

1. "The first half of Soviet military preparations in Albania, calculated to make the country into a bulwark of the Cominform against Yugoslavia and Greece, have now been completed, [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

(b)(1) (b)(3) 2. [redacted] the defense works at Valona have now been completed and give protection both to the Soviet bases there and to the small island of Saseno. The airports of Durazzo were completed quite some time ago and fit into the overall military plan by insuring air communication between that city and Bulgaria (Radomir--Tatar--Filippopoli). The first phase of the 'Zdanov Complex', the Soviet military plan for the fortification of the country, has also been completed, although a year and a half later than had originally been scheduled. Nevertheless all the construction works and fortification which were to fall within that phase have been successfully completed and comprise the following:

(a) A military port at Durazzo.
(b) A base for the launching of rockets.
(c) A strategic route all along the coastline.
(d) The development of the railway system.
(e) Improved communications between Valona and Saseno.
(f) The building of pillboxes at Scutari, Elbassan, and Koritza.
(g) Various fortifications in the ports for protective purposes, facilities for seaplanes and light naval units.
(h) Depots, underground communications, and 'nests' for submarines.

3. "Other similar preparations fall within the first phase of the plan. The second phase of the plan is expected to be completed within a year's time and will include the following works:

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(a) Various runways for heavy bombers.
(b) Various fortification works along the Albanian frontier.
(c) A railway line running from Diakovitza to the south of Korab. This line is about to be completed.
(d) Artillery mountain emplacements on the heights of the Karaburun.
(e) The fortification of the islets in the marshes of the south.
(f) Radar stations on the slopes of Kanina and in the area south of Valona.
(g) Underground depots for petroleum oil and other liquid fuels.

4. "The major work now under way is at the port of Valona where a submarine base is being built which, when completed, will be able to give shelter to 50 submarines. Work at the new base is going on at an accelerated rate under the supervision of Soviet and German technicians. The workers are mostly political prisoners brought over to Albania from the various satellites. The same is true of other military construction work going on in Albania.

5. [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)
the USSR intends to use them in case of a conflict with Yugoslavia. It will extend its bases in Albania this summer, and should the conflict break out, the Soviet-Albanian General Staff will carry out a specific plan of operations. Albanian forces will be stationed along the country's border with Greece, in the mountains. Helped by Bulgarian irregulars they will remain on the defensive. While the southern border is thus protected, an attack will be launched on the Yugoslav plains of Kosovo. It is expected to be carried out by the pro-Cominform Yugoslav brigade, the brigade of International Communists, and the Albanian forces under the command of Russian officers. These attacking forces will enlist the cooperation of the Albanians living in Yugoslavia and the pro-Cominform Macedonians and would thus be able to establish new territorial connections with Bulgaria. They would then declare Yugoslav Macedonia a 'free Macedonia' and turn the whole fighting into a revolutionary and civil conflict with Yugoslavia.

6. "That such designs on Yugoslavia are contemplated can be seen from the fact that official Albanian propaganda is now psychologically preparing the population for an attack. The press and radio, the speeches of Communist chiefs, and posters on the wall all speak of a 'plot' between Yugoslavia and Greece to partition Albania. The people are being told that Italy will not only give its blessings to this plot but will herself give it material aid: She will send her naval and air forces to help the Yugoslav and Greek attackers. The Albanian Radio has been saying that Albanian emigrants in Western Europe are also preparing themselves to participate in this attack on their home country. It maintains that these emigrants will form military units and will be sent to the area between Debar and Prizren in Yugoslavia. In addition, 400 Albanian emigre parachutists will go to Bari in Italy and get ready for the attack."

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